**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An isolated gene encoding a protein having activity to synthesize aurones using chalcones as substrates, wherein said gene is obtained from *Antirrhinum* ~~*Scrophulariales*~~.

Claims 2-4. (Cancelled).

Claim 5. (Currently amended) An isolated gene as set forth in claim 1, which encodes an amino acid sequence having a homology of at least 95% ~~55%~~ relative to the amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID NO:2, and encodes a protein having activity to synthesize aurones using chalcones as substrates.

Claim 6. (Previously presented) A vector comprising a gene as set forth in claim 1.

Claim 7. (Previously presented) A host cell transformed by a vector as set forth in claim 6.

Claim 8. (Previously presented) A host cell as set forth in claim 7, wherein said host cell is a microorganism or animal cell.

Claim 9. (Previously presented) A host cell as set forth in claim 7, wherein said host cell is a plant cell.

Claims 10-17. (Canceled).

Claim 18. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a protein having activity to synthesize aurones using chalcones as substrates, wherein said nucleic acid is obtained from *Antirrhinum* ~~*Scrophulariales*~~.

Claims 19-21. (Canceled).

Claim 22. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid as set forth in claim 18, which encodes an amino acid sequence having a homology of at least 95% ~~55%~~ relative to the amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID NO:2, and encodes a protein having activity to synthesize aurones using chalcones as substrates.

Claim 23. (Previously presented) A vector comprising a nucleic acid as set forth in claim 18.

Claim 24. (Previously presented) A host cell transformed by a vector as set forth in claim 23.

Claim 25. (Previously presented) A host cell as set forth in claim 24, wherein said host cell is a microorganism or animal cell.

Claim 26. (Previously presented) A host cell as set forth in claim 24, wherein said host cell is a plant cell.

Claim 27. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid obtained from *Antirrhinum majus*, encoding a protein having an activity to synthesize aurones using chalcones as substrates.

Claim 28. (Previously presented) A vector comprising a nucleic acid as set forth in claim 27.

Claim 29. (Previously presented) A host cell transformed with a vector as set forth in claim 28.

Claim 30. (Previously presented) A host cell according to claim 29, wherein said host cell is a microorganism, an animal cell or a plant cell.

Claim 31. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid encoding an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 32. (Previously presented) A vector comprising a nucleic acid as set forth in claim 31.

Claim 33. (Currently amended) An isolated ~~A~~ host cell transformed with a vector as set forth in claim 32.

Claim 34. (Currently amended) An isolated ~~A~~ host cell according to claim 33, wherein said host cell is a microorganism, an animal cell or a plant cell.

Claim 35. (Previously presented) An isolated gene encoding a protein having activity to synthesize aurones using chalcones as substrates, wherein said protein has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 36. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid sequence having the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

Claims 37-43. (Canceled).

Claim 44. (New) An isolated gene which encodes an amino acid sequence having a homology of at least 95% relative to the amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID NO:2, and encodes a protein having activity to synthesize aurones using chalcones as substrates.

Claim 45. (New) An isolated nucleic acid which encodes an amino acid sequence having a homoogy of at least 95% relative to the amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID NO:2, and encodes a protein having activity to synthesize aurones using chalcones as substrates.